United Nations A/61/592

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 November 2006
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 117

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diego **Simancas** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the question of the renovation of the residence of the Secretary-General under agenda item 117 at its 13th and 24th meetings, on 31 October and 22 November 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/61/SR.13 and 24).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the renovation of the residence of the Secretary-General: revised estimates to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/61/377) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/523).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.8

4. At its 24th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Renovation of the residence of the Secretary-General" (A/C.5/61/L.8), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.8 without a vote (see para. 7).

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6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union; Bulgaria and Romania; Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; and Ukraine and Moldova) and the United States of America.

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Renovation of the residence of the Secretary-General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the renovation of the residence of the Secretary-General: revised estimates to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report;[2]

3. *Regrets* that the proposal to renovate the residence of the Secretary-General was not submitted as part of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

4. *Approves* the renovation of the residence of the Secretary-General;

5. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to an amount of $4,490,400 under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, comprising $202,500 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and $4,287,900 under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, and to report on expenditures in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, to the extent possible, that activities approved under section 32 of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 are completed within the envisaged time schedule;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that procurement processes related to the project are conducted in a transparent manner and in full compliance with its relevant resolutions on procurement reform;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that targeted mitigation measures are put in place pursuant to established minimum operating security standards;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to expedite the action referred to in paragraph 2 of the report of the Advisory Committee.

[1] A/61/377.
[2] A/61/523.